

land, in a paper read before the Cleveland meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and published himself the next year, as a principal argument in favor of his theory of the formation of sandstones, and even conglomerates, solely by chemical deposition. He supposed the pebbles to have been deposited in a gelatinous state at first, so as to be capable of receiving the impressions of plants; and he gives a figure of such an impression resembling a calamite or a coarse conglomerate with the surface of the pebbles quite flat. I was puzzled by a similar detached fragment of a slickenside in the conglomerate near Beaver Meadow, in 1859; but this specimen, from its size and completeness, explains perfectly both that one and the one figured by Professor Brainerd.

Aside from the striking extravagance of Professor Brainerd's theory, and from this specimen's refutation of one of his best arguments, another argument against him, furnished by his own figures, may perhaps properly be mentioned here. A gelatinous pebble flattened by pressure on one side would, manifestly, be distorted on other sides, and a number of such pebbles lying side by side, affected by the same pressure, would have analogous distortions. In Professor Brainerd's figure of the so-called fossil calamite, the pebbles flattened on one side show no such distortion, but retain on every other side their rounded, water-worn look; so that the general appearance is, in effect, that of pebbles cut in two, instead of flattened down by pressure. The same can be said of the pebbles in his figure of the conglomerate resting with flat bottomed pebbles on the soft red shales, which he says is a very common occurrence, and which forms his other best argument in support of his theory.

The death was announced of Mr. J. Pemberton Hutchinson, Member, on May 9th.

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May 22d.

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty members present.

The following were presented for publication :

"Monograph of the Procellariidæ." Parts IV. and V. By Elliot Coues, M. D.

"On the Introduction of the Shad into the Alabama River." By Prof. W. C. Daniel.

Dr. Le Conte made some remarks on the subfamily Clavigeridæ, of Coleoptera.

He described briefly the structure and habits of these insects, and pointed out the distinctive characters of the three described genera, Claviger, Adranes and Articerus, to which he added a fourth, *Fustiger*.

This new genus agrees with *Articerus* in having eyes, but differs in the structure of the antennæ. These organs in *Articerus* are broad, without distinct basal articulation, but in *Fustiger* consist of a long subconical mass, gradually broader externally, truncate, and covered with a sponge of hair at the tip, and marked with four or five indistinct transverse sutures, showing that it is composed of closely connate joints; between this subconical mass and the head is a distinct short basal joint, projecting beyond the fovea in which the antenna is inserted. The eyes are oval, situated on the sides of the head, and composed of seven or eight moderately large lenses. The tibiae are not dilated as in *Articerus*.

The four genera thus form two series, of two genera each :

A. Eyes wanting :

Antennæ 6-jointed..... *Claviger*.
Antennæ with a long homogeneous club, and two short
basal joints..... *Adranes*.

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B. Eyes distinct, composed of a few aggregated lenses :

- Antennæ with one short basal joint, and a long club
 having traces of transverse sutures..... Fustiger.
 Antennæ (? without basal articulation), with a broad club
 of homogeneous structure..... Articerus.

The distribution of these genera is peculiar: Claviger is found in Europe and Asia; Adranes in North America; Fustiger in Brazil, Syria and North America; while Articerus, with the exception of a species found in Copal, is confined to New Holland.

The species of Fustiger are: 1. *F. brazilensis*, (*Articerus braz.* Westwood, Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 2d ser. iii. 277, pl. xvii. f. 5,) from Brazil: 2. *F. syriacus*, (*Articerus syr.* Sauley, Ann. Ent. Soc. France, 1865, p. 15,) from Syria; and 3. A new species from Tennessee, which will soon be described by Dr. Brendel, who is now occupied in studying the Pselaphidæ of the United States.

Westwood mentions, in the description of the Brazilian species, and exhibits in the figure the short basal joint of the antennæ, but does not allude to the obsolete transverse sutures of the mass of the antennæ.

Sauley describes the structure of the antennæ very accurately, and it is owing to his observation that I have detected a very short and indistinct joint between the visible basal joint of the antennæ of Adranes, and the bottom of the frontal foveæ in which they are inserted.

Dr. Leidy remarked that Mr. J. F. Clew, one of the proprietors of the salt mine of the Island of Petite Anse, Louisiana, had that day called upon him, announcing the donation to the Academy of a mass of 150 lbs. of pure rock salt. Mr. Clew further informed him of an interesting fact in connection with the history of primitive man. The salt mines of Petite Anse were discovered during the late rebellion. A salt spring had been previously known to exist. During the war, as this failed to produce the amount of salt required, a well was sunk in the hope of procuring a greater supply. At the bottom of the well the workmen met with a solid rock which turned out to be pure salt. This is covered with about fifteen or more feet of soil, mainly composed of sand and mud. A specimen of this soil having been submitted to Dr. Leidy, he was surprised to find mingled with it grains of precious garnet and olivine. Mr. Clew stated that a number of pits had been opened to reach the salt. In several of the pits at the depth of ten or fifteen feet they discovered in the soil bones of the Elephant, well preserved, and beneath these, within a few inches of the rock salt, abundance of matting. Portions of this matting, exhibited to Dr. Leidy, were composed of a tough, flexible, split cane, and were plaited diagonally. The pieces were well preserved, and evidently specimens of human art. On being asked the question, Mr. Clew said he was under the impression that some stone implements had also been found in a similar position, but he was not certain. He further added, that at the sides of one of the pits, bones of the Elephant, and beneath them pieces of matting, could yet be seen, as they had been allowed to remain undisturbed. The facts were so interesting in connection with these remains, and the geology of the Island of Petite Anse, that Dr. L. thought a competent person should be sent there to make an exploration. Mr. Clew has offered every facility to any one disposed to undertake the investigation.

May 29th.

The President, DR. ISAAC HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty-six members present.

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